

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 STR-07 CEA-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /078 W

-----116910 240855Z /16

P 240827Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6422

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: CASE NO. 6--

CLARIFICATION OF KDD AND NTT PROTESTS

REFS: (A) STATE 69838 (PARA 3) (B) TOKYO 3408

SUMMARY: NTT AND KDD ARE TWO SEPARATE COMPANIES. SAME USERS GROUP HAS PROTESTED BOTH RATE CHANGES BUT TWO CASES ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED. KDD CASE HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (TFC) SINCE NO U.S. MANUFACTURER HAS OBJECTED. EMBASSY IS WAITING FOR PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. REF B REPORTED THAT JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (KDD) HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MPT) TO IMPLEMENT A SPEED SENSITIVE RATE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEASED LINES. KDD HANDLES ONLY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND IS TOTALLY SEPARATE FROM NIPPON TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH (NTT) WHICH HANDLES DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS IN JAPAN.

2. THE SAME USERS GROUP WHICH FILED A PROTEST AGAINST THE NTT RATE INCREASE ALSO FILED A PROTEST AGAINST
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THE KDD RATE CHANGE BUT THESE ARE TWO SEPARATE PROTESTS SINCE THEY RELATE TO TWO SEPARATE COMPANIES.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT PRESENTED THE KDD CASE TO THE TFC BECAUSE KDD DOES NOT INCLUDE MODEMS IN THEIR RATE PACKAGE. USERS CAN STILL SELECT THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT BUT THE CHARGE FOR THE LINE THEY LEASE

FROM KDD WILL BE BASED ON THE SPEED OF THE EQUIPMENT THEY USE. SINCE KDD WILL NOT BE OFFERING MODEMS IN COMPETITION WITH CURRENT SUPPLIERS, NO U.S. MANUFACTURER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE.

4. THE USERS GROUP HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY'S HELP FOR REASONS EXPLAINED IN PARA 6 OF REF B. THE IMPACT ON THE MARKET FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE IMMEDIATE BUT THE SPEED SENSITIVE RATE WILL PENALIZE USERS OF HIGH SPEED EQUIPMENT. FUTURE INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIGHER SPEED EQUIPMENT UNDER DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MAY BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF KDD SPEED SENSITIVE RATES.

5. EMBASSY WILL TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS GUIDANCE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO PARA 8 REF B.

6. RESPONSE TO PARA 2 REF A FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
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